

# Buffalo Mediator Biographies



Hedwig M. Auletta

Buffalo Panel

**Personal Background:**

Born in New York City; lived in Florence Italy for several months; moved to Buffalo following graduation from Law School in 1986

**Education:**

Marymount Manhattan College, BA, History and languages, magna cum laude 1974;  
Fordham University School of Law JD, cum laude, 1986

**Work History:**

Confidential law clerk to Hon. Jon T. Elfvin: 1986-1988; Damon Morey LLC, 1988- present

**Areas of Specialty:**

Negligence; Labor Law 240; FDCPA

**Professional Achievements:**

Best Lawyers in America, 2012

**Personal Achievements:**

Board of Directors, American Red Cross, local chapter Trustee, Holy Spirit R.C. Church Volunteer reader, Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service



Mitchell J. Banas

Buffalo Panel

**Background:**

North Tonawanda, New York (1960-present)

**Education:**

Grove City College; SUNY College at Fredonia, B.A. 1982; SUNY Buffalo Law School, J.D. cum laude 1985

**Work History:**

Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugal LLP Commercial litigator 1985- Present

**Specialty/Subject:**



Commercial litigation; breach of contract; business torts; intellectual property; civil rights



**Professional Achievement:**

Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America; Fellow, Trial Lawyer Honorary Society; Past President, Advocates Club of Western New York; Past Treasurer, Western New York Trial Lawyers Association; Buffalo First "Lawyers Who Mean Business"; Best Lawyers in America

**Personal Achievement:**

Vice President of District Operations and Board Member; Greater Niagara Frontier Council Boy Scouts of America; Eagle Scout

 <p>Dianne Bennett</p> <p>Buffalo Panel</p>	<p><b>Personal Background:</b> Born and raised in Seattle, WA. Lived in WNY since 1971; Also spends part of the year in Rome, Italy (where we do not have a place but do have a 250 cc Malaguti scooter) and Los Angeles, CA (where we have a condo and grandchildren)</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Stanford University, BA, with distinction; University of Illinois, M.A.; SUNY at Buffalo School of Law J.D., summa cum laude</p> <p><b>Work History:</b> Hodgson Russ Andrews Moods &amp; Goodyear in 1975 (on graduation from law school) as an associate for one year, returned there in 1978 after stint at U.S. Government (Legislative and Executive branches): Legislation Attorney; staff of U.S. Congress Joint Committee on Taxation (1976-77); Attorney-Advisor, the Office of Tax Legislative Counsel; U.S. Department of Treasury (1977-78) Also: Adjunct Professor, SUNY at Buffalo School of Law taught required introductory tax course (1980s); Retired from Hodgson Russ LLP in 2004.</p> <p><b>Areas of Specialty:</b> Employee Benefits; Corporate and Individual Taxation; Cross-Border Tax Planning; some Corporate and Estates work Oversight</p> <p><b>Professional Achievements:</b> First woman to manage an AmLaw 250 law firm; President of Hodgson Russ when it acquired Louis Sullivan's Guaranty Building; regularly published articles on employee benefits and international tax; appeared as a speaker in the United States, Canada, and Europe; led Hodgson Russ team for 700-page work: <u>Taxation of Distributions from Qualified Plans</u> (still being published)</p> <p><b>Personal Achievements:</b> Past member of, and then Chair (under Governors Spitzer and Paterson) Government's 4th Department Judicial Screening Committee (1997 - 2010); Past member, New York State Court of Claims Screening Committee (2007 - 2010); Past member, numerous local, state, and national boards and committees: including Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Kaleida Health Foundation (Chair); Director (and past Trustee), The University at Buffalo Foundation (1998 - present); Member, Steering Committee and Co-Founder, the Women's TAP Fund (a local women's political action committee) (1997-present); American College of Tax Counsel Member; American Law Institute Charter Fellow; American College of Employee Benefits Counsel  The Best Lawyers in America, (listed since inception in tax and employee benefits); Numerous local awards, from organizations such as The Buffalo News; Everywoman Opportunity Center; YWCA of Western New York; and Planned Parenthood of Western New York</p>
 <p>Michael A. Brady</p> <p>Buffalo Panel</p>	<p><b>Personal Background:</b> Buffalo, NY</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Le Moyne College, B.S., 1970; Cornell University, J.D., cum laude, 1975</p> <p><b>Work History:</b> Michael A. Brady has devoted his legal practice exclusively to litigation and trial work. Before forming Hagerty &amp; Brady in 1989, Mr. Brady was a law clerk to then Chief Judge John T. Curtin, WDNY (1975-77); a litigation associate at Hodgson Russ LLP (1977-79); an Assistant United States Attorney, WDNY (1979-83, ending as the Chief, Criminal Division); and as an associate and then a partner in the litigation department of Moot &amp; Sprague (1983-89).</p> <p><b>Areas of Specialty:</b> Mr. Brady's litigation practice has been widespread, including personal injury, insurance defense, construction law, environmental law, commercial law, employment disputes, legal malpractice and aviation law. He has tried complex cases in state and federal court on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants. Since the commencement of the Western District of New York's Mediation Program which became operative in 2006, Mr. Brady has mediated well over 100 Federal Court lawsuits. These mediations have included wrongful death actions, commercial disputes, trademark litigation, admiralty disputes, construction disputes, personal injury actions, ERISA disputes; FDCPA actions and numerous other matters. In addition to his role as a Federal Court panel mediator, Mr. Brady is frequently requested to mediate State Court disputes in Buffalo and Rochester. He has also been engaged to arbitrate disputes both as single arbitrator and as a member of a panel.</p> <p><b>Professional Achievements:</b> On the occasion of the dedication of the new Federal Courthouse in Buffalo, on May 3, 2012, the judges of the Court recognized Mr. Brady with the Court's first Professionalism Award. The award recognized Mr. Brady's contributions to the Court's mediation program, his pro bono work at the Court, and his efforts in the community, specifically his multiyear involvement in the high school Mock Trial program in which he coaches a local high school Mock Trial team. Mr. Brady has been recognized by the Attorney General of the United States for his work in a series of bank fraud prosecutions in Federal Court in Buffalo. He was also selected by Judge Richard J. Arcara as a Special Prosecutor in federal court on a series of contempt citations. More recently, he has been recognized by various peer reviews including Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers and Business First's Who's Who in Law. He has long held the Martindale-Hubbell AV rating and is listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers.</p>

 <p>David G. Brock</p> <p>Buffalo Panel</p>	<p><b>Personal Background:</b> Born in Buffalo, NY ( Oct. 13, 1945); Currently resides in E. Amherst, NY</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Union College, Schenectady, NY, B.A., English, 1967; UB School of Law, J.D., 1972</p> <p><b>Work History:</b> Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, staff attorney, 1973-1977; Jaeckle Fleischmann &amp; Mugel, LLP., associate, 1977-1979; partner, 1980-present.</p> <p><b>Areas of Specialty:</b> Personal Injury Litigation, including: products liability; premises liability; construction and Labor law Insurance Coverage; and Litigation Municipal Liability: including police and fire liability; Legal Malpractice: Professional Ethics and Responsibility</p> <p><b>Professional Achievements:</b> Robert M. Kiebala Defense Trial Lawyer of the Year; WNY Defense Trial lawyers' Ass'n, 2010; Certified Civil Trial Specialist (pending); National Board of Trial Advocacy Member; NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Division, 4th Dep't. Attorney Grievance Committee, (1994-2000, 2008-present).</p> <p><b>Personal Achievements:</b> Maurice Tabor Man of the Year; Temple Beth Zion Brotherhood, 2009; William B. Hoyt Advocacy for Choice Award; Planned Parenthood of Western New York; 2012 Park School of Buffalo Board of Trustees, 2011-present; President (1995-1997) Temple Beth Zion</p>
 <p>Robert B. Conklin</p> <p>Buffalo Panel</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Born and raised in Buffalo, New York. Moved to Orchard Park in 1974.</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Canisius College BA (English); SUNY Buffalo Law School JD (cum laude), Law Review</p> <p><b>Work History:</b> Upon graduation, I clerked for now Senior US District Judge, John T. Curtin. Thereafter, I joined the litigation department of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods and Goodyear where I have continued my career, ultimately as a Senior Partner, President and General Counsel.</p> <p><b>Areas of Specialty:</b> (1) Product Liability; (2) Employment Litigation; (3) Railroad Law; (4) Professional Responsibility and Legal Ethics; and (5) Complex Business Litigation.</p> <p><b>Professional Achievements:</b> Recognized in "commercial litigation" or business litigation by Best Lawyers in America (20 years) and Super Lawyers. Also recognized in the "Bet The Company" category of Best Lawyers in America. Also recognized by UB Law Review for Distinguished Service in 2005.</p> <p><b>Personal Achievements:</b> Formerly member of the Board of Directors of the Shea's Performing Arts Center, Buffalo, New York. Currently Emeritus Member of the UB Law School's Dean's Advisory Counsel.</p>



Douglas S.  
Coppola

Buffalo Panel

**Personal Background:**

Doug Coppola has been married to Mimi Barnes Coppola for 32 years. His wife is retired from the Buffalo Board of Education where she was a teacher trainer/coordinator of the Special Education Training and Resource Center. In retirement, Mimi helped cofound the Elmwood Village Charter School. She continues on its Board of Trustees. Mimi is also an adjunct professor of education at Canisius College. Doug and Mimi have three sons. Steven is a 2006 Princeton graduate and bronze medal winner in the Men's 8 Rowing in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He is training full time for the 2012 Games to be held in London. Kellen is a 2009 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and currently at Rutgers University Law School, Class of 2014. Evan is a 2010 graduate of Canisius College. He is an equity analyst at Hudson Advisors and working on his MBA. Their three sons are alumni of Canisius High School.

**Education:**

Doug Coppola graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law in 1975 and was admitted to practice in February 1976. He received his undergraduate degree in 1971 from the University of Notre Dame.

**Work History/Areas of Specialty/Professional Achievements/ Personal Achievements:**

Coppola has been a practicing attorney in civil litigation for over 35 years representing both plaintiffs and defendants in various complex personal injury and commercial litigation matters including products liability, labor law matters, commercial premises liability cases, insurance coverage disputes, medical/ dental malpractice, and general contract/business litigation. He has also represented the interests of excess carriers in serious personal injury matters. He has tried to verdict numerous cases in state and federal court and is still engaged in an active trial practice. He has been AV Rated by Martindale Hubbell and earned their "pre-eminent" designation for over 20 years. Currently, 90% of Coppola's time is devoted to ADR through either mediation or arbitration. Coppola was privileged to be part of the initial trained panel of approved attorneys to handle mediation of commercial matters for the Eighth Judicial District in the New York State Courts in 2000 and he has continued with additional training in addition to his active case resolutions. He is on the current Court ADR panel for mediations, arbitrations, and neutral evaluations for the entire Eighth Judicial District Supreme Court and has regular referrals from the many Justices to mediate pending personal injury and non-personal injury matters. He underwent Federal Court mediation training in February 2009 and is a member in good standing of the WDNY Mediation Roster. Coppola has been involved in 750+ case resolutions as mediator, neutral or sole arbitrator since 2000. Since 2009, he has conducted 240+ mediations resulting in \$110+ million dollars in settlements and 150+ arbitrations as a neutral or sole arbitrator. He has been active in ADR on behalf of his own personal clients for over 15 years as well. Coppola has been honored to be selected in the Business First 2007-2011 editions of "Who's Who In Law Western New York" for arbitration and mediation nominated by his peers in the legal community. He has been selected for ADR in New York Super Lawyers since 2009. Doug is honored to be a Charter Member of the NY Chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. Coppola received the 2008 Charles H. Dougherty Civility Award from the Bar Association of Erie County after nomination by the Bar's Judge's Committee. He is a former member of the Erie County Bar Association board of directors and has served on the Bar's Nominating Committee. Coppola is the current Chair and original member of the City of Buffalo Board of Ethics since 1999. He is a former past president of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association and UB Law Alumni Association.



Ann E. Evanko

Buffalo Panel

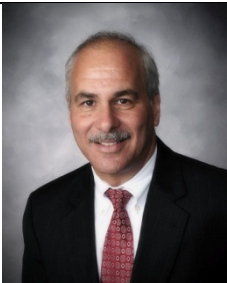
Biography Currently Not Available



Mark G. Farrell

Buffalo Panel

Biography Currently Not Available



Robert J.  
Feldman

Buffalo Panel

Biography Currently Not Available





Cheryl Smith  
Fisher

Buffalo Panel

**Personal Background:**

Born, Corning, NY. Lived in Buffalo, NY since law school

**Education:**

SUNY at Oswego, BA cum laude; University of Buffalo, Law School, JD cum laude, Trial Technique award

**Work History/Areas of Specialty:**

Associate in a small general practice firm in Buffalo, working on Civil Rights, Commercial Litigation, Estates Criminal defense & taxation; Associate medium sized general practice firm, concentrating in commercial litigation; Assistant U.S. Attorney, Western District of New York, trying Criminal and Civil cases; Associate in medium sized firm concentrating in commercial litigation; Partner Magavern, Magavern Grimm, LLP, medium sized firm concentrating in employment law, commercial litigation, contracts, intellectual property litigation, Professional Responsibility and ADR; General Practice in Civil Rights, taxation, Criminal defense, Estates & civil litigation; Vice-Chancellor-Episcopal Diocese of Western New York-Canon Law

**Professional Achievements:**

President, Erie County Bar Association-2007-2008; District Vice President NYS Bar Assn.-currently; Co-Chair NYSBA Committee on Professional Ethics-currently; Chair-8th Judicial District Committee on Character & Fitness-currently; Chief Judge's Task Force on Commercial Litigation in the NY State Courts-2012.

**Personal Achievements:**

Recipient Episcopal Community Services Bishop Lauriston L. Scaife Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community through an ECS Agency-1999; Recipient Child & Family Services of Buffalo, John N. Walsh Jr., Board Appreciation Award, for commitment to strengthening family life in Western New York; Past Chairman of the Board of Child & Family Services, Inc.; Lord of Life Adult and Child Services; Warden of St. Paul's Cathedral; Presently serving on Boards of CMH Counseling, Inc., Resurrection Village, Inc.



Krista Gottlieb

Buffalo Panel

**Personal Background:**

Ms. Gottlieb resides in Orchard Park, New York; Ms. Gottlieb was born in Prague Czechoslovakia, now Czech Republic. Because Czechoslovakia separated into two countries, amicably and without conflict or violence, she may be "genetically" or "nationality" predisposed to mediation. Upon "escaping" communism, and a one year "waiting period" in then West Germany to be eligible to enter the U.S. under the then existing political asylum quota, she came to the U.S. with her parents in her early teens. After a New York City area education (Barnard), an upstate law school hiatus (Albany Law) and her 5 initial years of law practice in NYC, she moved to Buffalo in 1986, built a home, a practice, and has become a great promoter of the benefits of mediation and living in Western New York (while travelling the world for fun!).

**Education:**

BARNARD COLLEGE, B.A., 1976, Political Science – International Relations and Law Honors: Cum Laude, Dean's List 1974-1976

ALBANY LAW SCHOOL – Juris Doctor, 1979, Moot Court Semi-finalist; Law Review Candidate; Conference Coordinator for International Law Symposium; Assistant to editor of "Practitioner's Handbook"

**Work History:** MATTAR, D'AGOSTINO & GOTTLIEB, LLP - Buffalo, NY 1986-Present; Partner and manager in full service general practice firm. Emphasis on wide ranging civil, employment, consumer, contractual, corporate and commercial negotiation, mediation, arbitration and all aspects of litigation, enforcement and resolution. Counseling and consulting on cost effective problem solving strategies, dispute avoidance and resolution, in and outside of litigation. Intensive mediation practice. MORITT, WOLFELD & RESNICK - Garden City, NY 1983-1985; Full range general civil practice, notably in corporate, commercial and employment related fields. All aspects from pre-formation, through varied business transactions, substantial state and federal litigation, private and public offerings, selected securities work, contracts, real estate and bankruptcy; REICH, ROSEN, BARRISON & FELZEN - New York, NY 1982-1983, Civil practice with concentration on litigation, contracts, real estate, corporate and commercial matters; FISHER & FISHER - Brooklyn, NY 1979-1982 General civil, trial and appellate practice before courts, administrative agencies and in arbitration with firm headed by the leader of the Brooklyn Democratic organization and the former Chairman of NYC Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Urban Development Corporation allowing for extensive related experience; BALLON, STOLL & ITZLER - New York, NY Summers 1977 & 1978 General civil practice and bankruptcy; PROBATE COURT & PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS - Portland, ME - Summer 1975 Assistant at probate court; Independent legal researcher.

**Areas of Specialty:** Ms. Gottlieb has served as arbitrator, mediator and facilitator in disputes and matters of varying complexity and subject matter, from simple interpersonal issues to multi million, multi-party, multi-state, multi-issue business and employment concerns, including multiple fortune 500 companies, as well as Federal, State and local departments and agencies. Substantive areas of experience include: Business, Corporate and Commercial Matters-Contracts, Corporate Structure/Dissolution, Partnership/stock agreements; Startup & organization, Shareholder Issues & Disputes, Business Acquisitions & Mergers, Fiduciary Duties Employment Related Issues, Institutional & Individual, Discrimination (Including Race, Religion, Gender, Age, Disability, Pregnancy, Sexual Orientation, FMLA, ADA and Retaliation), Sexual Harassment, Regulatory compliance, Employment and Severance Agreements, Restrictive Covenants and Agreements Not to Compete, Handbooks, Policies and Manuals, Hiring, Discipline, Termination and Separation IP-Patent, Trademark, and Trade Secrets; Public Interest & Public Sector; Civil Rights; Securities and Investment Claims; Educational Institutions; Health Care Institutions; Physicians Issues – Employment and Businesses; Insurance; Mass Disaster and Wrongful Death; Banking

**Professional Achievements:** 300+/- hours of Mediation Training taken over 18 +/- years; Mediation Teacher/Trainer, including for Cornell School ILR and 8th Judicial District Commercial Division; Member of various ADR mediation and arbitration panels, including WDNY Certified Federal Court Mediator, 8th Judicial District, AAA, EEOC, DHR, ECBA, BBB, FINRA; **ADR Related Honors:** "Who's Who in Law" Mediation/ADR, Buffalo Law Journal & Business First 2007 – Present; "Best Lawyers" in the New York Area - NY Magazine 2007; Present Mediation/ADR America's Most Honored Professionals - 2011 – Present; "Best Lawyers" in America 2004 - Present - Including ADR - one of 4 in Buffalo Who is Who in American Lawyers 1990- Present United Who is Who - Empowering Executives & Professionals 2005 Present; Marquis Who's Who - 2004 – Present; Madison Who's Who - 2005 – Present ;Who's Who in American Women - 2005 – Present; Who's Who Among Executive and Professional Women - 2008 – Present

**Personal Achievements:** Pro Bono Mediation in various settings, including WDNY, 8th Judicial District, BBB, Family Court, Small Claims Courts, EEO Crimestoppers Board (1994-2000) Volunteer at mediation/conflict avoidance events



James W. Gresens

Buffalo Panel

**Personal Background:**

Born in Rochester, New York, 1943; transferred to Buffalo in 1967 as a member of the New York State Police and stayed.

**Education:**

J.D., State University of New York at Buffalo, magna cum laude (1973), Managing Editor of Buffalo Law Review; B.A., State University of New York at Buffalo, magna cum laude (1973), *Phi Beta Kappa* National Honor Society.

**Work History:**

Duke Holzman Photiadis & Gresens LLP (2008-present); Gresens & Gillen LLP (1997-2007); Duke Holzman Yaeger & Photiadis, LLP (1995-1997); Saperston & Day, P.C. (1979-1984 and 1988-1995); Hodgson Russ LLP (1974-1976 and 1985-1988); Harris Beach & Wilcox (1977-1979); and U.S. Department of Justice, Organized Crime Strike Force (1976-1977); New York State Police (1966-1972); United States Marine Corps (1960-1965).

**Areas of Specialty:**

Business, Contracts, Construction, Corporate

**Professional Achievements:**

Adjunct Professor of Law at the State University of New York at Buffalo (1986 to present); Arbitrator, American Arbitration Association (1985 to present); N.Y. State General Building Contractors, Associate Member & Counsel (1985 to present); Construction Exchange of Buffalo & Western New York, Member Board of Governors (1990 to 2003); frequent writer and lecturer on matters concerning construction industry.

**Personal Achievements:**

Served as board member of the Erie County Construction Exchange for over 25 years; received award for outstanding pro-bono work in the Federal District Court for the Western District of New York in 2012; provides tutoring and assistance to under-privileged students at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy in Buffalo.



Richard F. Griffin

Buffalo Panel

**Personal Background:**

Born in Buffalo, New York on February 22, 1933. Has lived in Buffalo his entire life.

**Education:**

University at Buffalo Law School, JD, 1957, Note Editor, Buffalo Law Review  
Canisius College, BA, President, Student Council

**Work History:**

Attorney and Partner, Moot & Sprague Law Firm from 1957- 1990 (Chair, Litigation Department); Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers; Phillips Lytle LLP, 1990-2004 (Member, Trial Department); Kavinoky Cook LLP, 2004-Present (Counsel)

**Areas of Specialty:**

1954-2000 Extensive litigation and trial practice representing both plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury actions, commercial disputes, public interest, Section 1983 claims. Started mediation practice coincident with USDC settlement week, thereafter formed Alliance for Dispute Resolution which provided mediation services; also became Adjunct Professor at SUNY Law School teaching ADR with emphasis on arbitration and mediation. ADR practice has grown and currently represents 90% of my practice; 10% is devoted to arbitration and the balance to mediation. Cases include a large percentage of personal injury, commercial and construction, some employment and various other claims. Also, on occasion asked to serve as settlement counsel assisting an attorney to settle a case in litigation.

**Professional Achievements:**

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers; Best Lawyers in America and New York Super Lawyers; Who's Who in Law; Member of New York Chapter, National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. Medgar Evers Award, Buffalo Branch, NAACP, '76; Distinguished Alumnus Award for Excellence in Private Practice, University of Buffalo Alumni Association, '86; Canisius College, Distinguished Alumni Award, '03

	<p><b>Personal Achievements:</b>  William G. Conable Award, Citizens Counsel on Human Relations, '75; Parkside Partner Award, Parkside Community Association 'II; Frederick Law Olmsted Award, Olmsted Parks Conservancy of Buffalo, New York.</p>
<div data-bbox="94 1014 319 1295" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="94 1329 331 1360">Carol E. Heckman</p> <p data-bbox="94 1535 256 1566">Buffalo Panel</p>	<p><b>Personal Background:</b>  Currently in East Aurora, New York 1405; grew up in a small town in rural Illinois, and attended high school in Louisville, Kentucky, college at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin and law school at Cornell. Since law school, I have worked primarily in Buffalo, New York. I spent two years as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in their Honors Program in Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>Education:</b>  Lawrence University, B.A. magna cum laude, philosophy, Farley Prize, Distinction in Senior Comprehensives, Phi Beta Kappa, 4th in graduating class; Cornell Law School, J.D., magna cum laude, second in graduating class. Cornell Law Review, Order of the Coif, Frazier Prize.</p> <p><b>Work History:</b>  Began career as a federal law clerk in Buffalo. Then went to Washington, D.C. to work as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. After several years, accepted an offer to return to Buffalo to serve as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. During these years of government service, handled many civil and criminal trials in virtually all areas of federal law, and was undefeated as a trial attorney. Entered private practice in 1985, was a partner in two firms before accepting a position as a U.S. Magistrate Judge. Tried numerous cases as a practitioner and a judge in areas including employment discrimination, commercial and business disputes, products liability, tax fraud, automotive dealerships and civil rights claims. As a judge, published over 350 opinions in most areas of federal law, and participated in training magistrate judges nationally. Since leaving the bench, been a partner at Harter Secrest &amp; Emery LLP and have handled countless commercial law cases in both federal and state courts. S certified American Arbitration Association mediator and arbitrator and regularly provides instruction for other AAA neutrals.</p> <p><b>Areas of Specialty:</b>  Patent and trademark, employment discrimination, ERISA litigation, civil rights cases, business dissolution, UCC issues, insurance, products liability, contract disputes, non-compete cases.</p> <p><b>Professional Achievements:</b>  Frequent lecturer and author Over 350 published opinions Active in bar associations; I have participated in many 3-day intensive mediation training sessions, both as a student and as a trainer of magistrate judges.</p> <p><b>Personal Achievements:</b>  Former chair, Burchfield Penney Art Center Additional community board service has included American Lung Association, Children's Hospital and Hauptman Woodward Medical Institute.</p>



Photo Not Available

Mary M. Helenbrook

Buffalo Panel

Biography Currently Not Available



Marilyn A. Hochfield

Buffalo Panel

**Background:**  
Ms. Hochfield is Counsel to Kavinoky Cook LLP. Her practice is concentrated primarily in appellate advocacy, mediation and all aspects of employment law. She is a certified mediator for the United States District Court, WDNY.

**Education:**  
Ms. Hochfield received her law degree magna cum laude from State University of New York at Buffalo and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pennsylvania State University. She is admitted to practice in all New York Courts; United States Supreme Court; U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit; U.S. District Courts, Western, Southern, Eastern and Northern Districts of New York; and the U.S. Tax Court.

**Areas of Specialty**  
Ms. Hochfield is a member of Erie County, New York State and the Women's Bar Association of New York. She is former Chair of the Appellate Practice Committee and Human Rights Committee of the Erie County Bar Association, a member of the ADR Section of the N.Y.S. Bar Association, and a member of the Federal Court Practice, Labor Law, Appellate and Human Rights Committees of the Erie County Bar Association.

**Professional Achievements:**  
Ms. Hochfield's honors and awards include Who's Who in the Law, Business First and Buffalo Law Journal, 2007, 2008 and 2009, for Appellate Practice; Outstanding Legal Service Award, Buffalo Citizens' Council on Human Relations; Outstanding Service Award, Buffalo Branch, N.A.A.C.P.; Human Relations Award, Citizens' Council on Human Relations; Faculty Award for Distinguished Achievement in Federal Taxation, SUNY at Buffalo Law School; and Commendation, Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe for supervising elections in Bosnia pursuant to the Dayton Peace Accords.  
Ms. Hochfield has lectured at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law in a seminar on Law and Social Change and a seminar on Federal Practice. She has been a frequent lecturer in continuing legal education programs in employment law, appellate practice and civil rights.



Kevin M. Hogan

Buffalo Panel

**Background:**

I am a resident of Buffalo, NY; Born and raised in Albany, NY

**Education:**

University of Connecticut, B.S. 1983 (Dual degree: Mechanical Engineering and Materials Sciences); Vermont Law School, J.D. 1991

**Work History:**

General Electric Co., 1983-1988, Manufacturing Manager In Ohio, Massachusetts, and Vermont; U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 1991-92, Confidential Law Clerk to Judge Richard Cardamone; Phillips Lytle LLP, 1992 - Present

**Specialty/Subject:**

My legal expertise extends to all aspects of environmental law and litigation of disputes involving environmental law, toxic torts, intellectual property disputes, and other matters involving commercial law.

**Professional Achievement:**

Erie County Medical Center Corporation, Board of Directors, 2004-Present; Board Chair, 2012-Present



Donald J. Holzman

Buffalo Panel

**Personal Background:**

Is a member of the American, New York State, and Erie County Bar Associations. In addition, he has lived and traveled extensively in Europe

**Education:**

The University of Buffalo (B.A. Economics), the University of Buffalo School of Law (LL.B.), and the New York University School of Law (LL.M. in Taxation). He also served in the Counter-Intelligence Corps in the United States Army.

**Work History/Areas of Specialty:**


Mr. Holzman practices principally in the areas of tax law, corporate law (both local and international), and the related areas of estate planning, estate administration, estate litigation, and trust law. His corporate law practice has included the successful litigation of Human Rights and EEOC cases in the State and District Courts on behalf of employers. One of his cases, which twice went to the Court of Appeals, caused the New York legislature to amend the Human Rights Law because of the case's potential impact on the viability of that law. His practice has also included: Handling the first Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) financing package. Establishing the first charitable remainder trust arrangement with the University of Buffalo .Successful litigation and planning strategies against claims of minority shareholders. Successful defense of Federal income and estate tax matters and New York State income and sales tax claims. Successful pension plan/contract litigation on behalf of employers. Successful will contest litigation involving will fraud and sustaining charitable bequests **SPECIALTY:** Representing local and non-local attorneys and law firms in tax, partnership, and corporate matters. Representing local clients in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Switzerland, including merger and acquisition activity. Mr. Holzman has tried cases in the County Court, Supreme Court, Surrogate's Court, Appellate Division (3rd and 4th Dept.), Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court for the Western District of NY, the US Tax Court, and the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals.

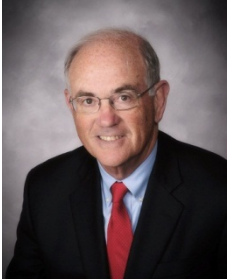
**Professional Achievements:**

In addition, Mr. Holzman both writes and lectures, primarily in the areas of tax and corporate law, with articles having appeared in Business First, the Buffalo Business Journal, the Rochester Business Journal, the Tax Law Review, Taxes - The Tax Magazine, Buffalo Law Review, Bankers Magazine, the Journal of Commercial Bank Lending, Monthly Digest of Tax Articles, and various publications for educational organizations dealing with tax aspects of charitable giving. He has lectured on tax law subjects at various programs sponsored by the University of Buffalo, University of Buffalo School of Law, New York State Bar Association, University of Pittsburgh, American Banker's Association, Robert Morris Associates, American College Public Relations Association, and others. Mr. Holzman has participated, personally and as legal counsel, in the acquisition and development of business entities in the publishing, printing, and aerospace industries.

**Personal Achievements:**

Mr. Holzman is also active as a board member of several local business and charitable organizations and is a member of the Buffalo Club, Saturn Club, and various local professional organizations

 <p>Lindy Korn</p> <p>Buffalo Panel</p>	<p><b>Personal Background:</b>  Williamsville, New York; Born in NYC - lived in Hicksville, NY. While growing up (which I am still doing) my family moved 17 times and I was always the "new" kid. We lived mostly on the east coast and for 2 years in Quebec. Graduated from high school at Amherst High School</p> <p><b>Education:</b>  Boston University - B.A. in History; Ohio Northern University, School of Law - J.D. Senior Fulbright Fellow of American Forensic Association Former P/T ALJ for State Liquor Authority; Mediation Certifications - Cornell School of Industrial Relations, WNY and Harvard College Mediation and Negotiations Project Columnist for 3 local papers: Buffalo Law Journal , Daily Record and Jewish Review Consults on Workplace Issues and Risk Management Training Created and teach a Bridge Course at UB Law School – Sexual Harassment Mediation; Member of Sports Law &amp; Recreation Association; Appointed by Gov. Mario Cuomo to sit as a Commissioner of Workers' Compensation</p> <p><b>Work History/Areas of Specialty</b>  "Workplace Doctor" - The entire focus of my practice is Plaintiff Discrimination with an emphasis on collaboration and problem solving. Recent areas of focus include: retaliation of Plaintiff's complaints based on sex (same sex), race, disability, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age and pregnancy. Areas of Study: Forgiveness and apology in mediation:  <i><b>Specialty:</b></i> Discrimination - state and federal forums Workers' Compensation; Sexual Harassment Mediation Disability Issues - access &amp; service animal issues Transgender Issues Same sex Issues Representation of artists and musicians in matters of discrimination Representation of veterans in matters of sexual harassment</p> <p><b>Professional/Personal Achievements:</b>  Trailblazer Award: for early involvement with WDNY Mediation Program Keybridge Foundation Mediator: Issues of disability mediation Involved with issues of discrimination &amp; domestic violence and connections between the two Speaker at February 2012 Sports Law Association in Greensboro: topic - "Come out of the closet to be shoved into a locker: Treatment of gay, lesbian and transgendered athletes on sports teams; Member of National Employment Lawyers Association, and NELA, NY Mother of 2 daughters - best work product owner of basset hound, Homer</p> <p><b>MISC.</b>  Generate creative options for parties Emphasize comfort and respect when mediating Reality checking and reframing of positions as they develop is important Time and certainty are values discussed in mediation. Urge creative solutions/brainstorms in midst of conflict being mediated.</p>
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 <p>Joseph V. McCarthy</p> <p>Buffalo Panel</p>	<p><b>Background:</b>  Currently resides in Orchard Park, New York; Lived in Buffalo except for college and law school</p> <p><b>Education:</b>  St. Bonaventure University - Economics – BS Catholic University JD.</p> <p><b>Work History:</b>  Clerk US District Court Judge Western District of New York; Roach, Brown, McCarthy &amp; Gruber, PC Civil Trials - Negligence - Product Liability - Medical Malpractice – Appeals</p> <p><b>Areas of Specialty:</b>  Civil Trials – Negligence Product Liability Medical Malpractice</p> <p><b>Professional Achievements:</b>  President Erie County Bar Association 1993-94; Executive Committee New York State Bar Association 1997-2000- American College of Trial Lawyers American Board of Trial Advocates</p>
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Dennis R.  
McCoy

Buffalo Panel

Biography Currently Not Available



Michael Menard

Buffalo Panel

**Background:**

Born and raised in Buffalo, NY

**Education:**

B.S., Political Science, Suny Buffalo 1974; J.D., Cum Laude, University of Miami School of Law, 1977

**Work History:**

Previously a litigation partner at Saperston and Day, P.C., and partner at Rodgers, Menard & Coppola , concentrating in personal injury litigation for plaintiff and defense

**Areas of Specialty:**

Has served as a neutral arbitrator/mediator in over 800 disputes pending in state and federal courts; mediator for Resolute Systems, INC., and NAMS member, Florida Bar section of ADR charter member, NYSBA section of ADR; over 30 years' experience in the litigation of personal injury claims

**Professional Achievements:**

Lecturer on ADR for Erie County bar association, Erie Institute of Law, and NYSBA, along with various in-house presentations; former president, WNY Trial Lawyers Association

**Personal Achievements:**

Former member of Frontier Central School District Board of Education



Harry F. Mooney

Buffalo Panel

**Education:**

University at Buffalo Law School (J.D. .. cum laude, 1975) Seton Hall University (MA, 1971); Canisius College (B.A., 1969)

**Work History:**

Mr. Mooney is Vice President of Hurwitz & Fine, P.C. and the head of the firm's litigation Department. He is lead member of the firm's 24-Hour Response Team. Prior to joining Hurwitz & Fine, P.C., he was partner in charge of insurance and loss prevention in the Buffalo law firm of Moot & Sprague. Mr. Mooney is a highly regarded certified mediator and has been appointed to the Mediation Panel for the United States District Court, Western District of New York.

**Areas of Specialty:**

He has years of experience litigating large loss cases in product liability, professional malpractice, toxic tort, trucking. Railroad and other catastrophic injury matters. He regularly conducts presentations and training to in-house counsel, claims professionals and legal professionals across the country. He is an accomplished litigator and has handled hundreds of trials.

**Professional Achievements:**

Recognized nationally and locally. Mr. Mooney was named to the list of the Top 10 Lawyers in all of Upstate New York (all areas excluding Metropolitan New York) by New York Super Lawyers Magazine. Mr. Mooney was named Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers in America for Buffalo Product Liability Law for 2012. He was also named Defense Trial Lawyer of the Year, receiving the 2007 Robert Kiebal Memorial Award. A top recognition presented annually by the Defense Trial Lawyers Association of WNY. Mr. Mooney is also active in the state and local bar associations, working to ensure proper representation of clients within the legal system. He is often called upon as an expert for his insight in legal malpractice matters. Mr. Mooney is a former board director of the International Association of Defense and a former president of the national Harmonie Group.



Randolph C.  
Oppenheimer

Buffalo Panel

**Background:**

Born in New York City and grew up downstate, where I attended public schools. I went to college in Vermont, where I met my wife. My father was a lawyer and practiced for more than 60 years, both in New York City and Florida. My brother is a lawyer, and is a partner in a large regional law firm. I always wanted to be a lawyer. After law school in Cleveland, we moved to Buffalo to raise our family (my grandchildren are 6th generation Buffalonians). Our five sons all went to public school in Amherst New York, all have graduated college, and several have professional degrees, although none are lawyers. My hobbies are fly-fishing, boating and collecting coins and vintage plastic toys. I have three grandchildren.

**Education:**

1976 - B.A. (Political Science) University of Vermont, Burlington 1979 - J.D. Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland (Associate Editor – Law Review; Instructor – Research, Writing and Advocacy)

**Work History:**

I joined Kavinoky Cook as an associate immediately after taking the New York Bar in July 1979 and became a partner there in 1985. I left 22 years later to start my own firm, but was courted by Damon Morey soon after opening my shop. I am a Partner at Damon Morey LLP, where I serve as Chair of the Labor and Employment Practice Group. I also am a member of Damon's Business Litigation and Insolvency Practice Group. I have practiced in the federal and state courts throughout New York, including New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals, as well as in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. I have been admitted pro hac vice in federal district courts in Arizona, California, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin

**Areas of Specialty:**

I have mediated or litigated shareholder and other corporate governance disputes, and claims involving securities, contracts, real property (eminent domain, tax assessment, zoning, building code violations, and regulatory demolition), patents and trademarks, and labor and employment proceedings and litigation. I have counseled clients on labor, employment, business, commercial and intellectual property matters and represented clients before state and federal agencies and courts for more than thirty years.

**Professional Achievements:**

I am listed in the Best Lawyers in America® for Labor and Employment; Upstate New York Super Lawyers for Labor and Employment; Business First of Buffalo's "Who's Who in Law" for Labor and Employment; and Who's Who in American Law®. I have an AV Peer Review Rating® by Martindale-Hubbell for Very High Ethical Standards and Very High to Preeminent Legal Ability. I am a member of the Bar Association of Erie County, the New York State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. I am also a member of the Society of Human Resource Managers, the Buffalo Niagara Human Resources Association, and the Labor and Employment Research Association. I volunteer as an attorney-client fee dispute arbitrator for the Erie County Bar Association Fee Dispute Program.

**Personal Achievements:**

I lecture and make presentations, including trainings on: mediation, civil procedure, litigation avoidance and substantive law topics for the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, the New York State Bar Association, the Erie County Bar Association, the New York State Department of Labor, clients, community groups, trade associations and schools. Additionally, I have been interviewed as a source for several newspaper articles and have authored dozens of articles on a variety of topics. I am a Director and Officer of Legal Services for the Elderly and Disabled of Western New York, Inc. I am a Trustee of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, New York. I am a Director Emeritus and former President of The Great Lakes Experience, a support organization for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.





Paul D. Pearson

Buffalo Panel

**Background:**

Before moving from Boston to Buffalo in 1987: Certified Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers since 1975, and former President of its Massachusetts Chapter (1986-87); Chairman of the Family Law Section, Massachusetts Bar Association (1984-86); legislative director, Family Law Committee, Boston Bar Association. Partner and Chair of Family Law Department, at Hill and Barlow, Boston MA, 1977-1987.

**Education:**

Bucknell University BA, Psychology & sociology; University of Pennsylvania Law School (1964); Admitted to practice law in Massachusetts and New York

**Work History:**

Formerly Of Counsel at Sullivan Oliverio & Gioa (1966); Partner & Co-Chair of the Family Law Dep't at Hodgson Russ LLP  
Listed all editions of: The Best Lawyers in America under "Family Law" since inception (in 1983), and also under "ADR" since its 1st listing in 2005; Who's Who In American Law, since 1982; and Who's Who In America, since 1992. "N.Y. Area's" and Buffalo News "Top Lawyers", 2007-2012

**Areas of Specialty:**

Trained and experienced Mediator since 1985, concentrating on matrimonial, family, estate, interpersonal, and fee disputes.

**Professional Achievements:**

Four term Chairman of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the Bar Association of Erie County. Founding member of the Alliance for Dispute Resolution, providing services as neutrals for Alternative Dispute Resolution processes. "Advanced Practitioner Member" of the Association for Conflict Resolution, and member of NYS Council on Divorce Mediation. Active member of Family Law and A.D.R. Sections of Bar Associations of Erie County and New York State (including Executive Committees. Organizer of Western N.Y. Collaborative Law Professionals & former President. On interdisciplinary matters: Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry, SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine since 1989. Instructor, Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, 1975-87.

**Personal Achievements:**

Legal coordinator for the P.E.A.C.E. Program of the Eighth Judicial District, since inception in 1994. Frequent teacher/lecturer, writer with 5 legal publications and media interviewee on legal, A.D.R., and interdisciplinary topics, including a guest lecturer at U.B. Law School. Two-term Chair of the "A.D.R. and Family" Committee of the Section on Dispute Resolution of the American Bar Association; Three-term member, Judiciary Committee, Bar Association of Erie County



Gregory P.  
Photiadis

Buffalo Panel

Biography Currently Not Available



Sharon M.  
Porcellio

Buffalo Panel

**Background:**

Orchard Park, New York Buffalo, New York – Born on west side, raised in South Buffalo and Lackawanna

**Education:**

Northwestern University School of Law, J.D., 1982 – Member, Editorial Board, Northwestern Journal of International Law & Business University of Rochester, B.A., cum laude, 1979, Economics and Political Science, (Washington Semester Internship – Hon. Daniel K. Akaka), Mount Mercy Academy

**Work History:**

Ward Greenberg Heller & Reidy LLP – Partner – 2008 to Present  
Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP – Partner – 1992 to 2008  
Damon & Morey – Associate & Partner – 1986 to 1992  
Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber – Summer Assoc. & Associate – 1981 to 1986  
United States Attorney for the Western District of New York – Summer Law Clerk – 1980

**Areas of Specialty:**

Business & Commercial Litigation Labor & Employment Alternative Dispute Resolution Administrative Litigation & Regulatory Proceedings Medical Device & Pharmaceutical Education Intellectual Property

**Professional Achievements:**

Co-Chair, Advisory Group to the New York State – Federal Judicial Council Past Chair, Commercial & Federal Litigation Section of the NYSBA Co-Chair, Committee on Women in the Law, NYSBA 2011 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Second Circuit 2010 Leaders in Law, The Nathaniel Award Nominee, The Daily Record Top 25 Women Upstate New York, Super Lawyers.com, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 New York Super Lawyers, Upstate Edition, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 Fellow, American Bar Foundation Fellow, The New York Bar Foundation

**Personal Achievements:**

Board Member, Luminina Corp., d/b/a Hope Chest, provides free exercise classes and Dragon Boat Festival opportunities for breast cancer survivors.



Vivian M. Quinn

Buffalo Panel

**Education:**

Univ. of Notre Dame BS; Columbia University MA; New York University JD (Mathematics and science honors degree (U/G) and Masters in Psychology prior to law degree).

**Work History:**

Starting at NYC firm and continuing to present day at Nixon Peabody.

**Professional/Practice History/Specialty/Subject Matter Experience:**

Commercial Litigation; Class Actions; Product Liability.

**Professional Achievements:**

NY Super Lawyer (2009 to present); Who's Who in Life Sciences (2010 to present).

**Personal Achievements:**

Heritage Center Foundation, Board member.



Hugh M. Russ,  
III

Buffalo Panel

**Background:**

Snyder, NY Summer Home - Point Abino, Ontario; I was born in Buffalo, NY. I have resided in Western New York for most of my life.

**Education:**

Harvard University, AB Cum Laude 1982; University at Buffalo Law School, JD, Magna Cum Laude 1987.

**Work History:**

I have worked at Hodgson Russ, in various capacities since 1986. I have been an equity partner since January 1, 1995. For my entire career, I have been a trial lawyer. I represent both plaintiffs and defendants in all kinds of civil litigation.

**Areas of Specialty:**

Personal injury; Employment law; Business disputes; Insurance disputes; Product liability

**Professional Achievements:**

The Best Lawyers in America, approximately 10 years NY Super Lawyers, approximately 10 years Business First - Who's Who in Law, approximately 10 years Top 50 Attorneys in Upstate New York, 2010, 2011, 2012

**Personal Achievements:**

Director, Roswell Park Cancer Institute Trustee, Nichols School Past President and Director, Neighborhood Legal Services Past President and Director, Compass House Past President and Director, Harvard Club of WNY Past Director, Bar Association of Erie County Involvement with numerous charitable organizations



Joseph F. Saeli,  
Jr.

Buffalo Panel

**Background:**

I am a Western New York native and live in Williamsville, New York.

**Education:**

Canisius College, B.A., *Magna Cum Laude* 1973;  
Boston University School of Law, J.D., 1976.

**Work History:**

I have operated my own law practice since 2000. Before that, I was General Counsel and V.P. of Human Resources at *The Buffalo News*, a division of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Corp. I was also a partner at Hiscock & Barclay, and an associate at the former Cohen Swados law firm.

**Areas of Specialty:**



Employment law, including employment discrimination cases; Employment contracts; Business disputes; Civil Rights cases; ERISA cases.

**Professional Achievements:**

Former Chair of Labor Law Committee, Bar Association of Erie County; *Business First* Who's Who in Law; Upstate New York Super Lawyers.

**Personal Achievements:**

Former Board member of American Red Cross, Greater Buffalo Chapter; Rental Assistance Corporation; and Pet Emergency Fund.

 <p>Daniel L. Schoenborn</p> <p>Buffalo Panel</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> East Aurora, New York; Fountain Hills, Arizona. I was born and raised in Buffalo, New York and attended Bennett High School, graduating in 1965. Briefly, I lived in Cheektowaga, New York, subsequently, for 30 years in Elma, New York and currently reside in East Aurora, New York.</p> <p><b>Education:</b> I graduated in 1969 with a BA from SUNY at Buffalo and received my Juris Doctor degree in 1972 from SUNY Buffalo. In college, I became a brother in Theta Chi Fraternity and was member of the Inter-Fraternity Council. In Law School, I was on staff of the 8th Judicial District Law Library and a member of the Prisoner Release Program.</p> <p><b>Work History:</b> After graduation from Law School I worked in the Law Department of Delaware North Corporation (then Sports service Corporation) where I was involved in contracts, labor-related issues, property issues and other related corporate matters. I briefly worked with Charles Spinner, Esq. and then went on to my current firm. My work has primarily been plaintiff and defense of personal injury litigation, estate planning and litigation, and insurance disputes. I also represent a number of business interests.</p> <p><b>Areas of Specialty:</b> My entire career has largely focused on personal injury litigation, both defense and plaintiff. I have also represented plaintiffs and defendants in insurance claims, fire losses, and property claims. I also have a fairly large estate practice and business practice which have resulted in estate and business litigation. I have also served, when it existed, on the Buffalo City Court arbitration panel, arbitrating numerous cases in the 1970s and early '80s</p> <p><b>Professional Achievements:</b> I was honored to be elected to the Board of Directors of the Bar Association of Erie County, having also served on a number of committees including the Judiciary and the Unlawful Practice of Law. I have also been asked and accepted on a number of occasions, to be a fee-dispute arbitrator on behalf of the Bar Association.</p> <p><b>Personal Achievements:</b> I have served as President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Elma Kiwanis Club; Vice President of the Leukemia Society of Buffalo; served on the Board of Directors of the EMW Soccer League and coached both soccer and softball when my children were younger. Having been involved in literally hundreds of mediations over the years and being an attorney who has handled a variety of matters, in particularly representing the plaintiffs and defendants interests, I believe that I can fairly look into the position of all parties and attorneys and to reasonably deal with anyone to try to reach fair and acceptable conclusions.</p>
 <p>E. Michael Semple</p> <p>Buffalo Panel</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Lifelong Resident of the Town of Tonawanda and Village of Kenmore</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Canisius College, B. S. Psychology 1969 Suny at Buffalo School of law, JD. 1972</p> <p><b>Work History/Areas of Specialty:</b> Trial attorney concentrating in Federal employees Liability Act Litigation in State and Federal Court in New York. Pennsylvania and Ohio. Practice also involved automobile liability, products liability, and general negligence litigation. Current practice consists of Arbitration and Mediation of personal injury, general civil and commercial and elder law matters. Admitted Florida Bar 1974 (currently inactive status) Admitted U. S. District Court, Western District New York, Northern District of New York and Western District of Pennsylvania</p> <p><b>Professional Achievements:</b> State of New York Attorney Grievance Committee, 4th Department 8th Judicial District Committee member 2000-2002; Chair 2002 – 2005 WNY Trial Lawyers Association, Director 1995-1997Bar Association of Erie County , Director 2008 - 20 11</p> <p><b>Personal Achievements:</b> United States Coast Guard Licensed Captain, 100 Ton Master of Power and Sail Vessels. Volunteer Captain for Excalibur Leisure Skills Center 1989 – 91 and 2011 to present. Bison Hockey Association. Coach, 1985 - 1999. Commissioned 2nd Lt. U.S. Army Reserve, May 1971 .Military Police Officer Basic School, Fort Gordon, Georgia June 1973. 402nd Civil Affairs Co. Reserve 1976 - 1979. Honorable Discharge, Captain, M. P. 1980</p>



James W.  
Smyton

Buffalo Panel

**Background:**

Currently Snyder, New York; Buffalo, New York; Chicago, IL - Five Years My two favorite towns.

**Education:**

Kent College of Law J.D. with distinction State University of New York at Buffalo; Clarkson College

**Work History:**

Brown & Kelly LLP 1971 to 1986; Phillips Lytle LLP 1986 to present

**Areas of Specialty:**

Focuses in all areas of corporate counseling, including acquisitions, sales, close held corporations, shareholder disputes and related contract disputes, securities, trade secrets and unfair competition, tax matters, employee benefits, labor and employment, patents and trademarks, real estate, etc.

**Professional Achievements:**

Erie County Bar Foundation; New York State Bar Association Seminar Speaker

**Personal Achievements:**

Federal Court Mediator; National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York, National Secretary; Presbytery of Western New York, Trustee and Vice Chair; Zoological Society of Buffalo, Foundation Trustee; Binational Tourism Alliance, Past Board of Directors and Treasurer; Erie County Bar Foundation, Past Board of Directors; Shea's Performing Arts Center, Past Chair; Zoological Society of Buffalo, Past Chair and Board Member



Steven R.  
Sugarman

Buffalo Panel

Biography Currently Not Available





Kathleen M.  
Sweet

Buffalo Panel


Biography Currently Not Available



Mark R. Uba

Buffalo Panel

Biography Currently Not Available

<p>Photo Not Available</p> <p>Ronald F. Uba</p> <p>Buffalo Panel</p>	<p><b>Education:</b> M.S. English / Education, Canisius College B.A. English / Philosophy, Canisius College; Certificate of Study, United States District Court and International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution: Program of intensive coursework in court practice and procedure and mediation history, practice, skills and related legal issues. Certificate of Study in Leadership, Management and Organization, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania: Program of intensive coursework in leadership, management, organization, public relations, press relations, public speaking, meeting and training facilitation. Extensive study, training and practice in negotiations, mediation, arbitration and administrative hearings. Guest lecturer at various colleges and agencies including Cornell, Canisius, SUNY Buffalo, SUC Buffalo, Public Employment Relations Board.</p> <p><b>Work History:</b> Regional Services Representative and Labor Relations Specialist, New York State United Teachers [1968-1976] Responsible for direct delivery of comprehensive service program including collective bargaining, arbitration and training to local unions including teachers, university faculty and professional personnel, other civil service personnel. Specialized in higher education matters. Responsible for development of broad-based coalition of supporters of public education from public and private sectors. Fundraising. Design and development of education policy think tank, education hall of fame and other programs to support public education.</p> <p>Regional Director, Western New York, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO [1976-2000] Primarily involved in areas of organization, employer-employee relations, public relations, leadership training, professional growth and development, education policy and reform, legislation and political action. Responsible for supervision of labor relations specialists, attorneys, administrative and support personnel. Responsible for overall delivery of comprehensive program of services to 90 independent affiliate organizations representing 15,000 members including teachers, State University of New York (SUNY) faculty and professional personnel, other civil service personnel.</p> <p><b>Professional Achievements:</b> Negotiated statewide collective bargaining agreement with New York State Office of Employee Relations on behalf of United University Professions representing more than 17,000 faculty and professional employees of the State University of New York. Recipient, Brotherhood and Sisterhood Award, National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) Recipient, Volunteer of the Year Award, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County Recipient, Community Services Award, Buffalo AFL-CIO Council</p> <p><b>Personal Achievements:</b> Current: Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy (SCAA), a public health and human services think tank headquartered in Albany, New York Chair, Development Committee, SCAA Previous: General Chair, 1996 Annual Campaign, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County which raised over eighteen million dollars Chair, 2000 Day of Caring, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County Board of Directors and Executive Committee, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County for more than 15 years Chair, Government Relations Committee, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County Strategic Planning Committee, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County Fund Distribution Committee, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County Board of Directors, United Way of New York State [1998-2004] Chair, Annual Conference, United Way of New York State Board of Directors, Central Referral Service Advisory Board, Canisius College Education Department Advisory Board, Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations / Western New York Vice President, Industrial Relations Research Association / Western New York Recipient, Brotherhood and Sisterhood Award, National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) Recipient, Volunteer of the Year Award, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County Recipient, Community Services Award, Buffalo AFL-CIO Council</p>
 <p>Thomas S. Wiswall</p> <p>Buffalo Panel</p>	<p>Biography Currently Not Available</p>



Bruce S. ZefTel

Buffalo Panel

Biography Currently Not Available